

Picking Up The Pieces

Charleston Victims' Families Forgive Suspect In Court

Rev. Jacqueline J. Lewis, left, of the Middle Collegiate Church in New York City and Muhiyidin D'Baha, right, of Black Lives Matter Charleston leads those in attendance in a song at the memorial in front of the Emanuel AME Church, Friday, June 19, 2015 in Charleston, S.C.

(AP Photo/Stephen B. Morton)
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Putin criticizes US but offers to cooperate on global crises



Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks during a plenary session of an economic forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, June 19, 2015. Russia isn't seeking dominance or superpower status, but wants its interests to be respected by the United States and its Western allies, Putin said Friday as he sought to assuage investors spooked by Russia's recession and a showdown over Ukraine.

(Alexei Druzhinin/RIA-Novosti/AP)

**S. MACINTYRE
V. ISACHENKOV
Associated Press
ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)**

— Despite the showdown with the West over Ukraine, Moscow wants to cooperate with Washington and its allies in dealing with the threat posed by the Islamic State group and other global challenges, President Vladimir Putin said Friday as he tried to allay investors' fears over Russia's course.

Putin blamed the United States for ignoring Russia's interests and trying to enforce its will on others, but he also sent conciliatory signals, saying that Moscow wants a quick settle-

ment to the Iranian nuclear standoff and a peaceful political transition in Syria.

Speaking at a major economic forum, Putin also insisted that Russia wants February's Ukraine peace agreement to succeed. Fighting there will stop, he said, once Ukraine provides broader rights to its eastern regions, gives amnesty to the rebels and calls local elections there.

The annual event, intended to burnish Russia's image before global investors, was tarnished by the freezing of Russian accounts in France and Belgium on Thursday as part of an effort to enforce a \$50 billion judgment to compensate shareholders of the now-defunct Yukos oil company.

At a meeting with top executives of global news agencies, including The Associated Press, which began nearly three hours behind schedule at around midnight, Putin sought to downplay the freeze and said that Russia will contest it. Putin argued that the arbitration court in The Hague, Netherlands, which issued the ruling last year, does not have jurisdiction

over Russia.

The court ruled that Russia must pay damages to shareholders in the oil company, which was dismantled in a politically driven onslaught that saw its chief executive, Mikhail Khodorkovsky, sentenced to 10 years in prison.


EU and U.S. sanctions over Ukraine have helped push Russia's economy into recession and cut investment and imports dramatically. Putin, however, argued Friday that the Russian economy is on the path to recovery and that the West hurt itself by imposing the sanctions.

Putin's speech on the economy decidedly lacked any engagement on his part or specific proposals to turn around the economy. A large number of Russian and foreign investors in the audience were reading news or emails on their smartphones as Putin delivered a speech in which he did not address the severe crisis that businesses in Russia are facing.



In contrast to the economy speech, Putin was much more animated while responding to questions about foreign policy. □

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Charleston victims' families forgive suspect in Court

JEFFREY COLLINS
Associated Press

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Relatives of the nine people shot down during a Bible study session inside their historic black church confronted Dylann Storm Roof on Friday during his initial hearing. They described their pain and anger, but also spoke of love.

The 21-year-old suspect was ordered held until a bond is set on murder charges. He appeared by video from the county jail, looking somber in a striped jumpsuit and speaking only briefly in response to the judge's questions.

"I forgive you, my family forgives you," said Anthony Thompson, whose relative Myra Thompson was killed. "We would like you to take this opportunity to repent. ... Do that and you'll be better off than you are right now."

The victims included the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, a state senator who doubled as the church's lead pastor, and eight others who played multiple roles in their families and communities: ministers and coaches, teachers and a librarian, counselors and choir singers and the elderly sexton who made sure the historic Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church was kept clean.

A police affidavit released Friday accused Roof of shooting all nine multiple

times, and making a "racially inflammatory statement" as he stood over an unnamed survivor.

wanza. She also spoke from Chief Magistrate James Gosnell's courtroom, where Roof's image

"We welcomed you Wednesday night in our Bible study with open arms. You have killed some of

even she showed some kindness to the man accused of killing her son: "As we said in Bible Study, we enjoyed you but may God have mercy on you."

Roof bowed his head slightly. From the jail, he could hear them talking, but couldn't see them; the camera showed only the judge.

"Charleston is a very strong community.

We have big hearts. We're a very loving community," said Gosnell, who urged people to find it in their hearts to help not only the nine victims, but "victims on the young man's side of the family" as well.

Roof's public defender released a statement from his family offering prayers and sympathy for the victims, and expressing "shock, grief and disbelief as to what happened that night."

"We have all been touched by the moving words from the victims' families offering God's forgiveness and love in the face of such horrible suffering," the statement said. □



Gary and Aurelia Washington, center left and right, the son and granddaughter of Ethel Lance who died in Wednesday's shooting, leave a sidewalk memorial in front of Emanuel AME Church comforted by fellow family members in Charleston, S.C.

(AP Photo/David Goldman)

The families are determined not to respond in kind, said Alana Simmons, who lost her grandfather, the Rev. Daniel Simmons. "Although my grandfather and the other victims died at the hands of hate, this is proof — everyone's plea for your soul is proof they lived in love and their legacies will live in love, so hate won't win," she said. "And I just want to thank the court for making sure that hate doesn't win."

Felecia Sanders survived the Wednesday night attack by pretending to be dead, but lost her son Ty-

appeared on a television screen. It is not unusual in South Carolina for the families of victims to be given a chance to address the court during a bond hearing.

the most beautiful people that I know. Every fiber in my body hurts ... and I'll never be the same," Sanders told Roof.

"Tywanza was my hero," Sanders added, but then



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Obama rejects mass shootings as 'new normal' in America

NEDRA PICKLER

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) —

President Barack Obama said Friday he refuses to accept the idea that regular mass shooting are "the new normal" in America. He acknowledged, though, that it will take a shift in public opinion before the country acts to tighten access to guns.

Obama said his first com-

ments on the church shootings in South Carolina, in which he said that political realities foreclosed action by Congress, had been misinterpreted by some as showing he was resigned to inaction on the issue of access to guns.

"I'm not resigned," he told the U.S. Conference of Mayors. "I have faith that we will eventually do the right thing. I was sim-



President Barack Obama pauses as he speaks at the Annual Meeting of the U.S. Conference of Mayors in San Francisco, Friday, June 19, 2015, about gun violence. (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

ply making the point that we have to move public opinion. We have to feel a sense of urgency."

The president said it that more thoughtful debate is needed from partisans on both sides on the issue — "without demonizing all gun owners who are overwhelmingly law-

abiding, but also without suggesting that any debate about this involves a wild-eyed plot to take everybody's guns away." He held out evolving public opinion on gay marriage and climate change as evidence that attitudes can change. Obama says he couldn't

say that the gun control legislation he pushed unsuccessfully earlier in his tenure would have stopped the Charleston shootings, "but we might still have more Americans with us."

"You all might have had to attend fewer funerals," he told the mayors. □

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Men accused in terror plot to kill blogger plead not guilty

DENISE LAVOIE

AP Legal Affairs Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Two men pleaded not guilty Friday to conspiring to support the Islamic State group in a plot to kill a conservative blogger who has angered Muslims. David Wright, 25, of Massachusetts, and Nicholas Rovinski, 24, of Rhode Island, entered the pleas in federal court in Boston.

Both were indicted Thursday on charges of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization by plotting with Boston terror suspect Usaamah Rahim, 26, to behead blogger Pamela Geller. The plot wasn't carried out. Rahim was killed by investigators who say he lunged at them with a knife in Boston on June 2 when they approached

him to talk about a recorded phone conversation. In the phone conversation, authorities say, Rahim told Wright he had changed his mind about killing Geller and now wanted to kill police officers. Rahim's family has questioned that account. Wright and Rovinski will remain in custody until at least a status conference, which is set for July 29.

Wright also pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice. Authorities say he urged Rahim to destroy his phone and wipe his computer.

An FBI affidavit says the men targeted Geller after she organized a conference in Texas in May featuring cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad. □



Supporters of David Wright leave federal court with attorney Jessica Hedges, right, after a hearing Friday, June 19, 2015, in Boston where Wright and Nicholas Rovinski pleaded not guilty on charges of conspiring to provide material support to a terrorist organization by plotting with Boston terror suspect Usaamah Rahim to behead conservative blogger Pamela Geller. The plot was not carried out. (AP Photo/Bill Sikes)

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Wisconsin school district bans American Indian team logos

DANA FERGUSON

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. (AP) —

Sports fans may have to leave their Blackhawks, Indians or Redskins gear at home if they plan on entering a Madison public school next year.

Starting this fall, public school students in Wisconsin's capital city cannot wear shirts, hats or other items that display the name, logo or mascot of any team that portrays a "negative stereotype" of American Indians. Those who do must change or face suspension or expulsion.

"The existence of these mascots destroys our self-esteem. The existence of these mascots shows us how people really think of us," Gabriel Saiz, a junior



Madison West High School sophomore Vaughn Bahr, left, and senior Gabriel Saiz, talk in the hallways of the school in Madison, Wis. The students, and several other members of the school's Native American Student Association, are in favor of a recent school board decision which bans the wearing of any clothing that features Indian logos and mascots used by sports teams. (John Hart/Wisconsin State Journal via AP)

at Madison West High, told the city school board in May shortly before it voted unanimously to adopt the policy.

The district's dress code

says a list of prohibited logos and mascots would be made available before the beginning of the school year.

The move comes some

two years after Gov. Scott Walker signed a law that made it harder for the state's public schools to drop tribal nicknames. The measure was prompted by officials in a handful of Wisconsin cities who refused to part with mascots such as the Chieftains and the Indians after the state Department of Public Instruction ordered them to drop the monikers. Previous state law allowed the state agency to launch a hearing into each race-based nickname with a single complaint. Current law requires a petition to trigger the hearing.

Larry Dupuis, legal director for American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, said he was not pleased with the Madison school district's move. He said it limits stu-

dents' free speech and seems counterproductive by stifling conversation about American Indian portrayals. "This kind of Band-Aid doesn't fix these sorts of underlying problems," Dupuis said. "What a horrible thing to tell kids that we can't discuss these ideas, that we should avert our eyes to this." Brian Howard, a spokesman for the National Congress of American Indians, welcomed the ban, which he said was the first he'd heard of in a public school. He said a private school, Sandy Spring Friends School in Maryland, approved a much more limited ban in February against only the word "Redskins," the mascot of the Washington, D.C. NFL team. The school doesn't require uniforms. □

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Cruise ship crashes at upstate New York seaway; 22 injured

MASSENA, New York (AP)

— A cruise ship taking European tourists to Ontario, Canada, crashed into a wall while entering a lock on the St. Lawrence Seaway in northern New York, injuring 19 passengers and three crew members, officials said Friday. The U.S. Coast Guard said the Saint Laurent was headed from Montreal to Toronto when it hit a wall in the Eisenhower Lock near the Canadian border Thursday night. There were 273 people on board, including 81 crew members and 192 passengers who are mainly French and Swiss nationals.

The ship's operator, Miami-based FleetPro, said 19 passengers and three crew members were treated at a hospital and released. The company said all the injuries were minor.

The crash remains under investigation.

The impact punched a hole in the ship's hull, causing it to take on water, said Petty Officer 2nd Class Lauren Laughlin of the Coast Guard's Cleveland-based Ninth District, which covers the St. Lawrence River and the seaway.

The lock's doors were closed and the water drained out so the boat wouldn't sink, Laughlin said. A salvage crew and Coast Guard team were assessing the damage Friday to determine how best to move the vessel, she said.

The Washington, D.C.-based Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corp. said the ship is stable and the uninjured passengers remained on board overnight. □



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Study: Deficit rise, more uninsured if US health law tossed

ANDREW TAYLOR
RICARDO ZALDIVAR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Repealing President Barack Obama's signature health care law would modestly increase the budget deficit, while the number of uninsured Americans would rise by more than 20 million, said a nonpartisan government study released Friday. The report from the Congressional Budget Office comes as Washington awaits a decision from the Supreme Court on whether to nullify health insurance subsidies for some 6 million people in more than 30 states. The ruling would have a major impact on the Affordable Care Act, known as "Obamacare." Republicans now in control of both chambers of Congress say they are not backing away from their promise to repeal "Obamacare." But repealing the law's

spending cuts and tax increases would add \$137 billion to the federal deficit over the coming decade, CBO said, even though almost \$1.7 trillion in coverage costs would disappear. Repeal would reduce deficits in the first few years but increase them steadily as time goes on. Repeal would up the number of uninsured people by about 24 million people, and the share of U.S. adults with health insurance would drop from roughly 90 percent now to about 82 percent, the report said. On the other side of the balance sheet, the report says that completely repealing the law would, on average, boost the economy by 0.7 percent a year after the start of the '20s. That's mostly because more people would enter the workforce or work more hours to make up for the lack of government health care subsidies. □



The HealthCare.gov website is displayed on a laptop screen, in Portland, Ore. Repealing President Barack Obama's signature health care law would modestly increase the budget deficit even as it boosts the economy, while the number of uninsured Americans would rise by more than 20 million, according to a nonpartisan government study released Friday.

(AP Photo/Don Ryan)

Applications for U.S. jobless aid fall to nearly 15-year low

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of people seeking unemployment benefits fell last week, evidence that layoffs remain at unusually low levels and the job market is moving closer to full health. Weekly applications for jobless aid dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 267,000, the Labor Department said this week, near 15-year lows reached two months ago. The four-week average, a less volatile measure, declined 2,000 to 276,750. The figures suggest that

Americans are enjoying solid job security. Applications, a proxy for layoffs, have remained below 300,000, a historically low level, for 15 weeks. The trend indicates that employers are confident enough in future consumer demand to retain their staffs. The data is "very encouraging labor market news," said Jennifer Lee, an economist at BMO Capital Markets. The number of people receiving benefits fell 50,000 to 2.22 million. That figure has fallen 14 percent in the past year. □



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Kremlin: Russian loan not discussed in Tsipras-Putin talks

**L. BERRY
N. VASILYEVA
Associated Press**

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP)

— Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday evening in St. Petersburg, but the question of Russian financial aid for Greece was not discussed, Putin's spokesman said.

Greece is struggling to reach a deal with its creditors for new loans that it needs to avoid defaulting on debt payments at the end of the month. Without the bailout, Greece could

be headed for bankruptcy or an exit from the 19-nation eurozone.

Tsipras' visit gave rise to speculation that the Greeks may be seeking Russian loans — and ahead of the talks, Putin's spokesman said Russia would consider a loan if the Greeks asked for one.

"We would do this because they are our partners and this is a normal practice between countries who are partners," spokesman Dmitry Peskov told The Associated Press.

But when Tsipras met with Putin, the possibility of a



Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras speak at an economic forum in St. Petersburg, Russia, Friday, June 19, 2015.

(Mikhail Klimentiyev/RIA-Novosti/AP)

loan wasn't discussed, Peskov told journalists. Instead, they spoke about "the necessity of developing investment cooperation."

The talks were held after both leaders addressed investors and Russian government officials at Russia's biggest annual economic forum.

Putin said little about Greece, although he slipped in a joke about its predicament.

"When Mr. Tsipras spoke, he said the problem of Greece was not a Greek problem but a European one. Well, that's right. If you owe someone a lot, then it is already not your problem but the problem of the one you owe — and that's an absolutely correct approach," Putin said.

Tsipras said his country strove to be a "bridge of cooperation" with "traditional friends like Russia" and others.

"As you all know, we are now in the middle of a great storm," the Greek leader said. "But we are a seafaring nation that knows how to navigate

through storms and is not afraid of heading to new seas and reaching new harbors."

Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich also had said Russia would consider a loan to Greece.

"The most important things for us are investment projects and trade with Greece. If financial support is needed, we will consider this question," he said in an interview on RT television.

On the sidelines of the investment forum, Russia and Greece signed a deal Friday to build an extension of a prospective gas pipeline that would carry Russian gas to Europe through Turkey. Russia promised Greece hundreds of millions of dollars in transit payments yearly if it agreed to build the pipeline. Construction of the pipeline is expected to start next year and be completed in 2019. Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said Russia and Greece would be equal partners in the project, with Russia's half owned by the state bank VEB.



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UN-brokered Yemen peace talks end with no deal

AHMED AL-HAJ
Associated Press

SANAA, Yemen (AP) — Yemen's exiled government and Shiite rebels who control the capital failed to agree on even a temporary cease-fire Friday as they wrapped up U.N.-brokered talks aimed at ending a conflict that has killed over 1,000 civilians and displaced more than a million since March.

The collapse of the talks came as Saudi-led airstrikes continued to pound the Iran-backed rebels, known as Houthis, and their allies, killing at least 10 civilians in a northern rebel stronghold, witnesses said. The U.N. meanwhile called for \$1.6 billion to help millions of Yemenis avoid a "looming humanitarian catastrophe."

U.N. envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, who mediated the talks in Gene-

va, told reporters that the two sides broadly favor a cease-fire that would have rebels withdraw from cities and towns seized in recent months and the coalition halt its air campaign against them.

"We didn't reach a final agreement. We have to be clear and transparent," he said, adding that a deal "will require further consultation."

"I come out with a certain degree of optimism," he added. "It's a matter of time."

The fighting in Yemen pits the Houthis and allied troops loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh against southern separatists, local and tribal militias, Sunni Islamic militants and loyalists of President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi, who is now based in Saudi Arabia. The rebels seized the capital, Sanaa, in September.



United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed speaks during a press conference at the European headquarters of the United Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland, Friday, June 19, 2015. Cheikh Ahmed said peace talks between the exiled Yemeni government and Shiite rebels who control the capital have concluded without reaching an agreement.

(Marial Trezzini/Keystone via AP)

ber. Iran supports the rebels, known as Houthis, but denies arming them. The U.S. backs the Saudi-led coalition, which began launch-

ing airstrikes against the Houthis and their allies in late March, but has made little progress in pushing the rebels back.

The exiled government had

demanding the implementation of a U.N. Security Council resolution requiring the rebels to withdraw from cities and towns, including the capital.

The Houthis had called for a temporary cease-fire, but the government rejected it, saying the rebels had used a previous humanitarian pause to grab more land. Mediators had hoped to broker at least a temporary cease-fire for the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, which began Thursday.

Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the Houthis had signaled their willingness to implement the U.N. resolution in a proposal presented to him on Thursday, without elaborating on its contents. Another proposal called for deploying civilian observers to verify a cease-fire, he said. □

Israel: 1 killed, 1 wounded after West Bank shooting

JERUSALEM (AP) — A gunman opened fire at a car outside a West Bank settlement on Friday, killing an Israeli man and wounding another in what police said was a "terror attack."

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the two men were driving along a dirt road outside the West Bank settlement of Dolev when their car was struck. One man died from his wounds at a hospital. The second was lightly wounded.

The military said the men

had been hiking. It said a Palestinian man pulled them over, asking for information about a nearby spring before opening fire on them.

Israeli news site YNet showed a picture of what it said was the car, with at least four bullet holes in the windshield and the front seats stained with blood. Rosenfeld said the men, both in their 20s, were struck at close range. Rosenfeld said the area near the scene of the attack was cordoned off. □



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Kashmir rattled by targeted killings after period of calm



Athar Altaf, left, son of Sheikh Altafur Rehman who was killed by unknown gunmen, sits with his grandfather Sheikh Mohammed Yousuf as he talks to the Associated Press in Sopore, about 34 miles north-west of Srinagar. A series of assassination-style killings over the past week have rattled residents of Sopore in Kashmir, leaving its half a million population seeking answers for those responsible for the deaths.

(AP Photo/Dar Yasin)

of violence. There's strong suspicion in the Sopore area, where most of its 500,000 residents want independence or union with Pakistan, that India is behind the killings. The four slain men apparently shared a common sentiment: Two had fought Indian rule militarily while the other two had politically opposed India's control. Militant and separatist groups say it's no coincidence that the attacks came after Indian Defense Minister Manohar Parrikar's comments last month that "you have to neutralize terrorists through terrorists only." Rattled by the killings, Sopore is a ghost town. Its normally bustling streets lie deserted, and its residents, when they do go out, making little eye contact with each other. Some fear that Indian security forces have reactivated secret forces such as the "ikhwanis" they once used to eliminate dissidents during the bloody 1990s. The violence comes after a period of relative calm. Guerilla attacks have declined and tourism has once again becoming a serious business. But the recent attacks are a

crushing reminder that the region where a bloody separatist campaign and brutal Indian military crackdown that has killed 68,000 people since 1989 remains volatile. Activists called for a protest rally in the town Friday, but Indian authorities imposed a curfew in many parts of Kashmir, including old quarters of the main city Srinagar, to try to prevent that from occurring. Thousands of armed police and paramilitary soldiers fanned out across the region where street protests have become the main tool to express anger against Indian rule. Police also detained dozens of separatist leaders and activists to stop them from leading the protest. On-and-off talks between India and Pakistan over the disputed territory have made virtually no progress in years amid deep mutual distrust. India accuses Pakistan of training and financing militants and pushing them into the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir. Islamabad denies the charge, saying it only gives moral and diplomatic support to the rebels. □

AJIAZ HUSSAIN
Associated Press
SOPORE, India (AP) — Four assassination-style killings since last week have shaken this town in Kashmir just as the Himalayan region claimed by both India and Pakistan seemed to be slowly emerging from decades

Malaysia: Hijacked oil tanker rescued, pirates flee

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Pirates who hijacked a Malaysian oil tanker last week have fled on the ship's lifeboat after being pursued by a Malaysian navy ship, an official said Friday. Navy chief Abdul Aziz Jaafar said the eight pirates, believed to be Indonesians, abandoned the MT Orkim Harmony late Thursday. All 22 crew members are safe except for an Indonesian cook who was shot in the thigh, Abdul Aziz tweeted. The ship is sailing to Malaysia's northern

Kuantan port, escorted by a naval ship, he said. Abdul Aziz said Vietnam had arrested eight men on a life raft who claimed to be from a fishing boat that sank, and that Malaysian authorities are investigating whether they are the hijackers. The tanker, carrying 7.5 million liters (2 million gallons) of gasoline worth 21 million ringgit (\$5.7 million), was headed to Kuantan when communications were lost June 11. The crew consists of 16 Malaysians, five Indonesians and a Myanmar

national. The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said earlier that the ship was located in waters off southern Vietnam late Wednesday and had been repainted black from blue. Abdul Aziz also tweeted pictures of the tanker, showing some letters of the name of the ship painted over to give it a new name, "Kim Harmon." Abdul Aziz said the pirates had warned the navy ship tailing the tanker to stay at a distance or they would harm the crew. □

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Toyota: American exec did not intend to break Japan law



Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda bows deeply at the start of a press conference in Tokyo Friday, June 19, 2015. Toyoda said he believes an American executive arrested on suspicion of importing a controlled drug into Japan had no intention of breaking the law, while acknowledging the Japanese automaker had not been adequately prepared for going global.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

YURI KAGEYAMA
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Toyota Motor Corp. President Akio Toyoda said Friday he believes an American executive arrested on suspicion of importing a controlled

drug into Japan had no intention of breaking the law. Julie Hamp, Toyota's head of public relations and its first senior female executive, was arrested Thursday for allegedly importing the painkiller oxycodone. She

was the first foreign Toyota executive to be fully stationed in Japan, and was in the process of moving her belongings from California. At a hastily called news conference Friday, Toyoda bowed and apologized for the troubles set off by the arrest of Hamp, who was tapped as Toyota's chief communications officer in April. He said the company should have done more to help with Hamp's relocation. He declined to go into details of the police allegations, only repeating several times that the company was cooperating fully with the investigation. The drug was found by customs officials in a package Hamp sent to herself by air mail from the United States, according to police. Japa-

nese media reports said the drugs were hidden in various parts of a jewelry box.

The high-profile stumble of a media-savvy executive, so early in the game, is an embarrassment for the world's top-selling automaker. Toyota had highlighted Hamp's appointment with much fanfare as a sign that it was promoting diversity. Toyoda said he had picked Hamp, 55, because of "her character." She was an excellent leader, communicating well with Japanese employees, he said.

"For me and for Toyota, she is an indispensable and precious teammate," he told reporters. "I believe that we will learn that she had no intent to violate the

law."

He acknowledged that her appointment had been a "big step" in a globalizing Toyota. Although Japanese Toyota officials had gone abroad to live, she was the first foreign Toyota executive to be fully stationed in Japan.

It was unclear when she might be released. Japanese authorities can detain suspects without charge for up to 23 days.

Japan has strict controls over drugs. Possession of marijuana, for instance, is a serious crime. Foreigners being detained for mailing or bringing in medicines they used at home is not unheard of. Such drugs may be banned in Japan or require special approval.

□

China: Hong Kong opposition the destroyer of democracy

KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Chinese state media blasted Hong Kong's pro-democracy opposition lawmakers on Friday for being "destroyers" of democratic development a day after they shot down Beijing's election blueprint for the British former colony.

The Chinese Communist Party's flagship newspaper published an editorial deploring the vote and accusing the pro-democracy camp of being "selfish" and not heeding public opinion in rejecting the government's election proposals.

"The actions of the opposition camp show they are the upsetters and destroyers of Hong Kong's demo-

cratic development process," the People's Daily said.

The Hong Kong government had proposed allowing voters in the Asian financial hub to choose the city's leader for the first time in 2017 so long as candidates were vetted by a Beijing-friendly panel of elites. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets last year to protest the plan, which they branded "fake democracy," and to demand genuine choice of candidates. The proposal was defeated Thursday because Hong Kong's government could not muster enough support from pro-democracy lawmakers, who had stuck to their promise of voting against it. □



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Lead opposition candidate in Argentina names running mate

PETER PRENGAMAN

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina

(AP) — The leading opposition presidential candidate in Argentina announced his running mate on Friday, picking a popular senator who uses a wheelchair just days after the ruling party candidate named his own running mate.

Mauricio Macri, the mayor of Buenos Aires, announced his choice while standing next to Sen. Gabriela Michetti, who has been paralyzed from the waist down since a traffic accident in the 1990s.

"Gaby is a testament to the values that we have been fighting for in this city and hope can be achieved for the entire nation," said Macri.



In this 2007 photo, Mauricio Macri, now-Mayor of Buenos Aires, plants a kiss on the hand of Gabriela Michetti, during a gathering with supporters at their headquarters in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Macri announced Friday, June 19, 2015, that Michetti will be his vice presidential running mate.

(AP Photo/Daniel Luna)

Earlier this week, Daniel Scioli from President Cristina Fernandez's party chose

Carlos Zannini, the legal and technical secretary of the presidency. Zannini is

a close Fernandez adviser, and his designation was seen as a sign that Fernandez will continue to wield influence behind the scenes. Fernandez is constitutionally barred from running for a third term.

For the last several months, Macri and Scioli have led in the polls, both within their own blocs and nationally. Scioli was vice president in the administration of Nestor Kirchner, Fernandez's predecessor and late husband. In most recent polls, he has been a few percentage points above Macri, a sign of the popularity that Fernandez continues to enjoy with many in the South American nation of 41 million.

"The main candidates have now been established," said Maria Victoria Murillo, an expert in Latin American politics at Columbia Univer-

sity's School of International and Public Affairs.

Murillo said she expected both presidential teams to try to present themselves as above the fray to an increasingly polarized electorate.

"Both candidates will want to show that they are not like Cristina, that they are not as confrontational," said Murillo.

Fernandez, a fiery orator who has been in power since 2007, in national speeches frequently blasts political opponents and warns other countries and foreign creditors not to meddle in Argentine affairs. Primary elections are set for August. While the leading tickets have now been set, the open primaries will be important to give the campaigns a sense of what is resonating ahead of the October elections. □



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Brazil senators fail to meet with Venezuela opposition

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Brazilian senators flew into Venezuela this week to try to meet with jailed opposition leaders, but they barely made it past the airport, leading Brazil's government to complain about hostile acts against its lawmakers.

The group, which was led by Brazilian opposition leader and former presidential candidate Aécio Neves, landed at a coastal airport but turned back before reaching Caracas, blaming road congestion and a demonstration by supporters of Venezuela's socialist government. The drive usually takes an hour. Venezuelan hardline opposition leader Maria Corina Machado, who met the delegation at the airport, said maintenance work

snarled traffic and the protesters held up the lawmakers' bus. She said dozens of protesters surrounded the bus, shouting insults at the lawmakers and beating on the vehicle, though without damaging it.

The senators wanted to visit high-profile imprisoned Venezuelan politicians, including former mayor Leopoldo Lopez, who has been on a hunger strike for nearly a month.

Neves expressed his extreme displeasure before boarding a plane back to Brazil.

"We're here to show that we are worried, and to insist that democracy prevails through the region. Unfortunately, we have been attacked and stymied," he said in an interview with local Union Radio. □



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the shaded restaurants. A full day of fun at De Palm Island, including all of the above and more, is very reasonably priced for adults, and for children 4-12, the price is even more special! Children of 3 years and under enter for free. Tickets are available online, at the De Palm Desk in one of the hotels or at De Palm Island.

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quoise ocean. What better way than to discover Bugaloe this Sunday with a special steak platter at a price Dad will surely approve of! Dads deserve the best and what's better than an ice cold drink, sunset views and big ol' steak? More information, visit: www.facebook.com/BugaloeAruba or call us at (+297) 586-2233. □

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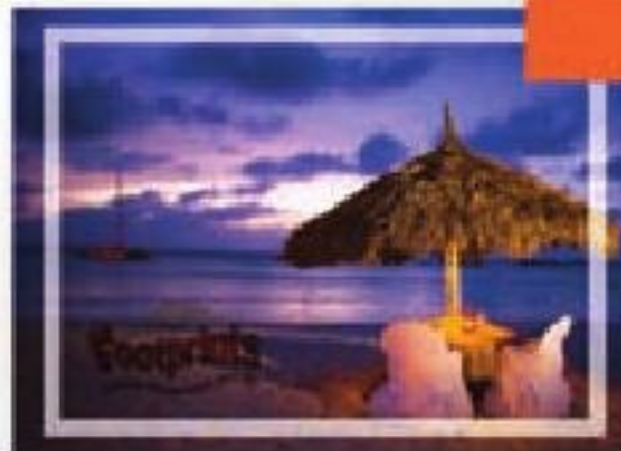
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girl now that I am retired". So they went on our bus to celebrate 40 years of teaching school and at the same time their retirement. And not to forget to mention Kay and Jimmy are also married for 42 years now. Reasons enough to celebrate this on the Kukoo Kunuku bus. "We loved the sundown toast, the crew, the graffiti on the bus, the bars and the dinner. A special thanks to Mama!!!" So, I guess we can say that Kay



and Jimmy enjoyed the tour from the beginning till the end. Luckily they will be

returning, as soon as possible, to our beautiful island and again on the Kukoo

Kunuku. We will be happy to have you again, thanks Kay and Jimmy! □





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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Jordan Spieth waves waves after making a birdie putt on the 10th hole during the second round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Chambers Bay on Friday, June 19, 2015 in University Place, Wash.

Spieth sets the target at Chambers Bay

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

UNIVERSITY PLACE, Wash. (AP) — One major apparently isn't enough to satisfy Masters champion Jordan Spieth.

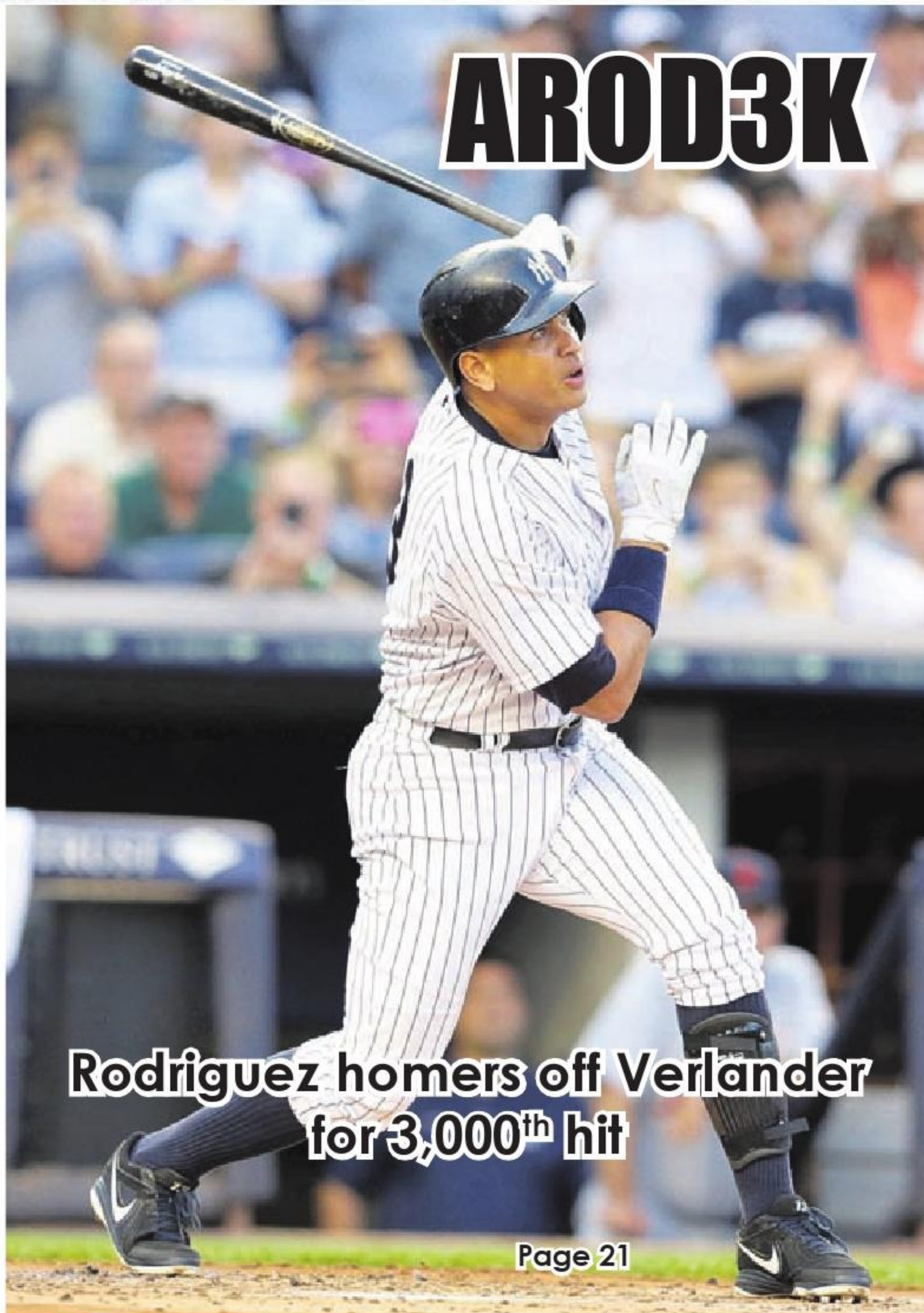
Spieth set the target Friday at Chambers Bay by surging into the lead with birdies, overcoming a double bogey that tested his patience and closing with a birdie during a chaotic final hole. He wound up with a 3-under 67 and a one-shot lead among the early finishers.

Not since Tiger Woods has anyone won the Masters and U.S. Open in the same year.

Spieth still has a long way to go, and he realizes it will only get harder on a course that already is perplexing. At times, it was even scary.

Jason Day, playing alongside Spieth, was doing his best to keep pace until a frightening finish to his round. Day was headed down to the ninth green — a drop of some 100 feet in elevation — when he fell to the ground and lay on his back for several minutes.

Continued on Page 19



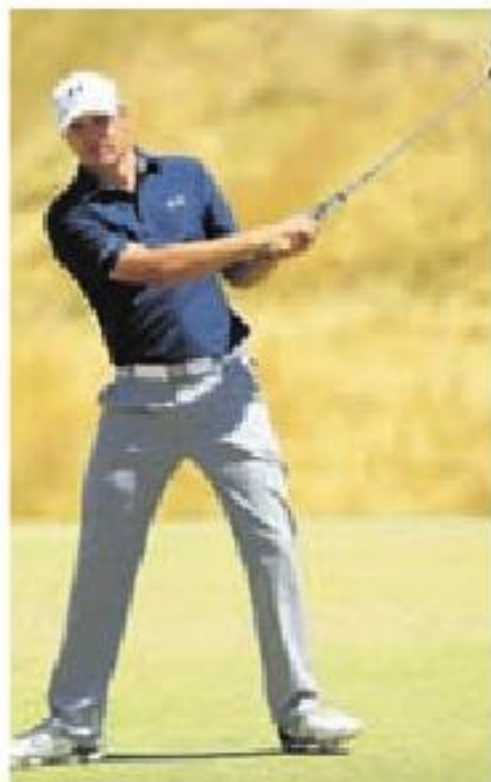
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New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez follows through on a home run for his 3,000th career hit, during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers on Friday, June 19, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

Spieth

Continued from Page 17



Jordan Spieth reacts after missing a putt on the sixth hole during the second round of the U.S. Open golf tournament at Chambers Bay on Friday, June 19, 2015 in University Place, Wash.

Associated Press

Day, who had coped with vertigo recently, eventually was helped to his feet. His hands were still shaking as he went into a bunker, blasted out to 10 feet and made bogey. He still shot a 70 and was three shots behind Spieth.

He was being treated at Chambers Bay. There was no immediate information on his condition.

His caddie and longtime coach, Colin Swatton, said that it was similar to an episode Day had last year at Firestone when he withdrew after only two holes in the final round with what later was diagnosed as vertigo.

Woods, meanwhile, had the highest 36-hole score of his pro career when he shot 76 to miss the cut at 16-over 156. It was the second time in his last three majors that Woods missed the cut. He has one more start, The Greenbrier Classic in two weeks, before going to St. Andrews for the British Open.

"Obviously, I need to get a little better for the British Open, and I'll keep working at it," Woods said.

Spieth can lean on the experience as a Masters champion, but this major is nothing alike in every way. For starters, he had a five-shot lead going into the weekend at Augusta National. He was at 5-under

135 at Chambers Bay, tied with Dustin Johnson and Henrik Stenson as they were just beginning their round in the sun-baked afternoon along Puget Sound.

Branden Grace of South Africa, one of several power players who are thriving at Chambers Bay, had a 67 and was one shot behind. It all seems to be working for Spieth, a 21-year-old Texan

who made the fans sense they were watching something special this week. But this is not a runaway like it was at the Masters. And this golf course can be as hard as the USGA wants to make it. "It's playing different," Spieth said. "And I'm in a very different position. I'm not going to have a five-shot lead. So given it's a U.S. Open, I imagine they're going to try to

bring us back to par. ... So I'll draw some on Augusta, but at the same time, my patience level has to be even that much higher." Spieth hit his stride with an approach that rolled right by the pin on the 14th and led to a 10-foot birdie. He rolled in a 20-foot birdie on the 15th, and then hit his tee shot to 5 feet for birdie on the 17th to reach 6 under and take the lead.

What followed was his biggest test of the week. The tees on the 18th were moved forward, making it play 514 yards. Some players who had been at Chambers Bay for the U.S. Amateur were concerned about the USGA using a forward tee and changing it to a par 4 in the middle of the U.S. Open because of an awkward landing area. □

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Clint Dempsey 3 game ban for ref confrontation

NEW YORK (AP) — Seattle forward Clint Dempsey was suspended for three games by Major League Soccer on Friday and fined for confronting a referee during a U.S. Open Cup game this week.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber concluded the former Fulham and Tottenham forward's behavior was "referee abuse," which requires a minimum three-game suspension, and not "referee assault," which has a minimum six-game ban.

During the Sounders' fourth-round loss to rival Portland, he grabbed a notebook from the official and tore it after a teammate was given a red card. Dempsey could face further discipline from a panel established by the U.S. Soccer Federation, but any additional suspension would be limited to U.S. Open Cup matches. He will miss league games

against San Jose on Saturday, Philadelphia on Wednesday and Portland on June 28. While Dempsey would have had to sit out U.S. national team games during the

Americans start the Gold Cup against Honduras.

"We do not tolerate conduct of this nature from any of our players," MLS Deputy Commissioner Mark Abbott said in a



In this photo taken Tuesday, June 16, 2015, police officers escort the referees off the field after the Seattle Sounders played the Portland Timbers in a U.S. Open Cup soccer match at Starfire Stadium in Tukwila, Wash.

Associated Press

suspension, the Americans do not play until a July 3 exhibition against Guatemala, four days before the

statement. "No matter how passionate our players are or what happens in the 'heat of the moment,'

they must always respect all aspects of the game, especially the referees. In light of Clint's actions and our past precedents, we felt that a significant suspension was appropriate." The Professional Soccer Referees Association was less than pleased with the three-game suspension, calling it a "slap on the wrist" and calling Dempsey's actions a direct threat to the integrity of the game.

"In late 2014 MLS was moving in the right direction in their response to referee assaults. Unfortunately, this is a serious step backward," the PSRA said in a statement. "Referee safety is an important issue at all levels of the game and MLS should have used its high profile position to lead rather than regress."

With Seattle down to nine men in overtime after an injury and red card, teammate Micheal Azira was

ejected for an elbow to a Portland player.

Dempsey, who was not near the play, walked up to referee Daniel Radford and grabbed his notebook out of his hand. Dempsey threw the notebook, picked it up and ripped it in half and was shown a red card, leaving Seattle with seven men — the minimum for the match to continue.

After being shown the red card, Dempsey had to be restrained by teammates and a couple of opponents from getting in the face of Radford. As Dempsey walked off the field, he clapped derisively in the face of an assistant referee on the sideline.

Portland went on to win the match 3-1, ending Seattle's reign as U.S. Open Cup champion. Upset fans threw water bottles on the field, and Radford's officiating crew left with a police escort. □



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Alex Rodriguez homers for 3,000th hit, 29th player to get it



New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez smiles after hitting a home run for his 3,000th career hit, during the first inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers on Friday, June 19, 2015, in New York.

By BEN WALKER
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alex Rodriguez homered for his 3,000th career hit and smiled all the way around the bases Friday night, the highlight so far in what's become a resurgent season for the formerly disgraced slugger. The New York Yankees star wasted no time, connecting in the first inning on a first-pitch, 95 mph fastball from Detroit ace Justin Verlander. Rodriguez became the 29th player in major league history to reach 3,000 hits, and the first since Yankees great Derek Jeter homered from the very same batter's box in 2011. With the crowd at Yankee Stadium standing in anticipation, Rodriguez sent a high drive to right field. He held onto the bat as he took a few steps toward first base, and right fielder J.D. Martinez bumped into the wall as he backed up. The crowd roared as the ball sailed a half-dozen rows into the seats. Rodri-

quez was greeted by Mark Teixeira and other teammates between the plate and the dugout, and got a big hug from manager Joe Girardi. The only other players to hit a homer for No. 3,000 were Jeter and Wade Boggs. Rodriguez turns 40 next month. The three-time AL MVP launched his 13th homer of the season and has enjoyed a productive year as a designated hitter after sitting out all of last season while serving a drug suspension. A-Rod hit his 667th career home run after beginning the day with a .299 lifetime average in 21 seasons. He joined Hank Aaron and Willie Mays as the only players with 600 homers and 3,000 hits. Earlier this year, he passed Mays for fourth place on the all-time homer list and eclipsed Barry Bonds for second on the official RBIs chart. This hit was quite different from his first one - a four-hop, infield single on July 9, 1994, at Fenway Park

against Boston's Sergio Valdez. Back then, Rodriguez was an 18-year-old batting last for the Seattle Mariners, a young man with a big future.

Friday night's plate umpire, Ed Hickox, coincidentally was the plate umpire for A-Rod's first hit.

"Is that right - 21 years apart?" Hickox said an hour before the first pitch. "I was aware he was a prospect for Seattle when he got the hit, but that's all we knew then."

For all of his achievements, A-Rod has been a polarizing lightning rod in recent years. While the crowd in the Bronx cheered him, there are many fans who will forever attach an asterisk to anything Rodriguez accomplishes.

Such is the baseball world in the wake of performance-enhancing drugs, where RBIs, ERAs and other huge numbers have been tainted by PEDs. Bonds, Roger Clemens and Mark McGwire are among the many with Cooperstown-caliber credentials who haven't come close to being elected to the Hall of Fame because of drug scandals.

High school student Claire Campo, from Mission Viejo, California, bought a \$135 Rodriguez jersey in the souvenir store an hour before the game.

"I love Alex Rodriguez," she said. "People need to get off his case. He's done everything you could ask for on the field. What he's done off the field, he apologized and paid the price. What more do you want?" Her grandfather, Larry Vastola of Morristown, New Jersey, said he completely agreed with her. But he said his wife - Campo's grandmother - had a dif-

ferent view.

"She can't stand him," he said. "When we get home, we're going to tell her that

they dislike him so much at Yankee Stadium that they were giving away these jerseys." □



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3D ON THREE SCREENS

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INSIDE OUT

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG**

3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35
FRI 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35 | 10:45
SAT 2:05 | 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35 | 10:45
SUN & HOL 2:05 | 4:15 | 6:25 | 8:35

2D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:20 | 7:30
FRI 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40
SAT 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30 | 9:40
SUN & HOL 3:10 | 5:20 | 7:30

CHRIS PRATT | TY SIMPKINS

JURASSIC WORLD

3D VERSION **PG-13**
MON-THURS 3:55 | 6:25 | 9:10
FRI 3:55 | 6:25 | 9:10 | 11:55
SAT 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10 | 11:55
SUN & HOL 3:40 | 6:25 | 9:10

2D VERSION
MON-THURS 5:35 | 8:20
FRI 5:35 | 8:20 | 11:05
SAT 2:50 | 5:35 | 8:20 | 11:05
SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:35 | 8:20

MON-THURS 4:45 | 7:30
FRI 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15
SAT 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30 | 10:15
SUN & HOL 2:00 | 4:45 | 7:30

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SPY

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MON-THURS 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15
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SUN & HOL 1:50 | 4:05 | 6:40 | 9:15

DERMOT MULRONEY | STEFANIE SCOTT

INSIDIOUS 3
CHAPTER

WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG-13**
MON-THURS 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35
FRI 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35 | 11:50
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SUN & HOL 2:50 | 5:05 | 7:20 | 9:35

DWAYNE JOHNSON | CARLA GUGINO

SAN ANDREAS

3D WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES **PG-13**
3D VERSION
MON-THURS 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20
FRI 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SAT 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20 | 11:50
SUN & HOL 1:55 | 4:20 | 6:50 | 9:20

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California reveals details of self-driving car accidents

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — California state officials released reports Thursday detailing six accidents that involved self-driving car prototypes, reversing a policy that shielded details of how the next-generation technology is performing during testing on public roads.

The disclosure came after The Associated Press argued to the Department of Motor Vehicles that the agency was improperly withholding the information.

According to the reports, most of the cars were in self-driving mode when the accidents happened, and the other driver caused the accident. None of the crashes was serious enough to cause injuries, either to the person the state requires to sit behind the wheel or people in the other cars.

The DMV's refusal to release the reports bothered critics, who said the public should know how the cars of the future were faring today.

"The more transparent the government is about self-driving vehicle accidents, the more credibility the government will have when it comes time to decide — yes or no — on whether to OK the sale and licensing of self-driving cars," said Peter Scheer, executive director of the First Amendment Coalition. Until now, the agency said it could not reveal details about self-driving car accidents, citing state law making collision reports confidential.

After the DMV denied a public records request, AP argued that the agency was incorrectly interpreting the confidentiality re-

quirement. The news organization also said the public has an interest in understanding how these experimental vehicles are performing.

"Unlocking these records

out.

The companies that operated the cars — tech titan Google and parts supplier Delphi Automotive — submitted their own accounts of the accidents. Police

DMV officials had not been aware of those eight until an April conference call with Google, agency spokeswoman Jessica Gonzalez said.

In California, a driver is

serve no purpose because Urmson's blog post detailed the accidents. Two days later, Google launched a website which offered short narratives describing each collision.

The documents that the DMV released Thursday offered few new details, other than the date and time of the accidents and the make and model of the other cars.

According to the reports, five accidents involved Lexus SUVs that Google outfitted with sensors and cameras. The sixth involved an Audi retrofitted by Delphi. All were in the Silicon Valley cities of Mountain View or Palo Alto.

In four Google accidents, the Lexus was in self-driving mode. In the fifth, the SUV began braking when it sensed a 2015 Audi S6 had run a stop sign and was about to hit it; the Google employee behind the wheel took control just before the Audi hit the Lexus' right rear.

The Delphi car was struck as it waited at an intersection.

It is hard to know for sure how typical Google's experience is. With four accidents in the past approximately 100,000 miles, the recent accident rate appears to be higher than the reported national average. About 0.3 "property-damage-only crashes" happen per 100,000 miles driven, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Google officials have said they are proud of the safety record. Noting that as many as 5 million minor accidents are not reported to authorities each year, they conclude that the cluster in recent months reflects the true rate at which fender benders happen. □



In this Sept. 25, 2012, file photo, California Gov. Jerry Brown, front left, rides in a driverless car to a bill signing at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. **Associated Press**

and sharing them with the public are in keeping with AP's longstanding efforts nationwide to bring about greater transparency in government agencies," AP spokesman Paul Colford said.

Led by Google, self-driving cars have been running on public roads since 2009. It was only in September, however, that the DMV officially began permitting the testing — and requiring companies to file accident reports and until now, the agency wouldn't release those reports.

On Thursday, the DMV said it had reviewed the request and determined they could release the reports as long as personal information such as the drivers' names is blacked

have confirmed investigating only the Delphi crash. While eight companies have permission to test 82 self-driving cars in California, Google has driven the most miles (about 1.8 million) and licensed the most prototypes (48).

After several years of revealing little about crashes, Google has in recent weeks become more open about their number and nature.

After AP reported last month that there had been three Google accidents and one Delphi accident, Google self-driving car project leader Chris Urmson revealed in a blog post that its cars had been involved in eight other accidents between 2010 and July 2014.

required to report to the DMV any accident involving more than \$750 of damage.

A Google spokeswoman could not say whether the company had filed DMV reports on any of the initial eight accidents, and said she could not provide damage estimates because repairs were done in-house, without a bill.

The DMV said it could not search its records for earlier reports without date and location information that Google has provided to neither AP nor the agency. At Google's annual shareholders meeting earlier this month, co-founder Sergey Brin told a longtime critic with the nonprofit Consumer Watchdog that releasing accident reports would

Rally peters out, but market still ends week higher



Traders Fred Demarco, left, and Joseph Chirico, right, work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A rally that pushed a key index to a record high petered out on Friday, yet the market still ended with its best week in nearly two months

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

ALEX VEIGA
AP Business Writer

A rally that pushed a key index to a record high petered out on Friday. Despite the losses, the market still ended with its best week in nearly two months after getting a boost from the Federal Reserve on Wednesday. Policymakers signaled that they were in no hurry to raise interest rates from historically low levels. "Many sectors and stocks have had a good few days, so some of it is (down to) people taking off some of their profits," said JJ Kinnahan, TD Ameritrade's chief strategist about Friday's

trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index lost 11.48 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,109.76. For the week the index was up 0.8 percent, its best gain since the week ending April 24. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 99.89 points, or 0.6 percent, to 18,015.95. The Nasdaq composite slid 15.95 points, or 0.3 percent, closing at 5,117. That's just below its record high of 5,132.95 set on Thursday. An impasse in bailout negotiations between Greece and its creditors and worries about a stock bubble in China weighed on the market. Utilities and finan-

cial stocks were among the biggest decliners. The price of oil fell, ending the week nearly flat. Investors spent much of the week focused on the Federal Reserve's next move on interest rates. The market got some reassurance from the central bank on Wednesday, when the Fed suggested it wanted to see more improvement in the economy and signs of inflation before raising rates. The low rates have helped drive the bull market in stocks. Clarity on Greece's ongoing debt drama has been more elusive. Greece and its lenders re-

main deadlocked in their attempts to hammer out a pact for the debt-stricken nation. Greece needs more loans from its creditors before June 30, when its current bailout program expires and a 1.6 billion euro (\$1.8 billion) debt payment is due.

On Friday, the European Central Bank agreed to provide temporary support for Greece's banks ahead of an emergency summit meeting next week. That meeting could determine whether Greece still has a future in the euro. Greece's main stock index slumped 11 percent for the week. Traders also had their eye on China, where the main stock index plunged Friday, raising concerns that a bubble in the market may have burst. The Shanghai Composite Index tumbled 6.4 percent and is 13 percent lower for the week. The index has more than doubled in the past year. A series of disappointing sales forecasts also hurt stocks.

Hershey fell 3.5 percent after the chocolate and candy maker cut its revenue outlook for the year because of weak demand in China. The company also said it plans to cut about 300 jobs by the end of the year. The stock lost \$3.22 to \$89.04.

CarMax fell 3.7 percent after the used car dealership chain reported fiscal first-quarter sales that fell short of forecasts. The stock shed \$2.69 to \$69.27. Investors welcomed news that activist investor firm Jana partners has taken a 7.2 percent stake in ConAgra Foods. □

Peugeot to invest near \$632 million in Morocco plant

PAUL SCHEMM
Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Morocco and French automaker PSA Peugeot Citroen on Friday signed an accord to build a new factory aimed at producing up to 200,000 cars annually for the African and Middle East market. The factory involves an investment of 557 million euros (\$632 million) and is the second major agreement between Morocco and a French automaker, following Renault's 2013 building a factory in Tangiers. Peugeot head Carlos Tavares said the deal was part of the larger plan to revive the company's fortunes and eventually sell a million vehicles in Africa within a decade.

"This region is important and dear to our hearts," said Peugeot head Carlos Tavares. "We decided that PSA is ready to make a committed offensive on the African continent and Middle East."

He credited Morocco's infrastructure and the education level of its workforce for the decision to build the factory here.

Morocco has been seeking to improve its economic ties with the rest of Africa as well as build up its industrial base to combat persistent unemployment.

"The automotive sector is an essential one for Morocco," said Minister of Industry Moulay Hafid Elalamy. "It was the most dynamic sector for export between 2012 and 2014."

Morocco exported \$4 billion worth of cars and parts in 2014 and already in the first four months of 2015 there has been a 12 percent increase from the same period last year.

The sector provides some 80,000 jobs, roughly 10 percent of the industrial employment.

Elalamy said that the presence of a second major manufacturer in Morocco will boost the entire industry and make it profitable to make more parts within the country so that less needs to be imported. □

EBay sells stake back to Craigslist, ending legal battles

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — E-commerce company eBay has sold its 28.4 percent stake in Craigslist back to the online classified advertising site, ending years of legal wrangling between the two companies. The move announced Friday comes as eBay prepares to split with its online

payments system PayPal. Financial terms were not disclosed. EBay, which is based in San Jose, California, bought a stake in Craigslist in 2004. But the two companies have tussled in the legal arena. Craigslist has long accused eBay of using confidential information to start its own classifieds site

in the U.S. in 2007. In 2010, a judge ruled that Craigslist founder Craig Newmark and CEO Jim Buckmaster violated their responsibilities to eBay with changes they implemented that diluted eBay's share from 28.4 percent to 24.9 percent and made it harder for eBay to sell the stake.

EBay said with the repurchase, all litigation between eBay and Craigslist will be dismissed. It declined to comment further. Craigslist posted an excerpt of eBay's statement on its blog along with an excerpt of Shakespeare's "All's Well That Ends Well," including the line "Love all, trust a few." □

Gas-price jump pushes consumer prices up 0.4% in May

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Consumer prices increased in May by the largest amount in more than two years, reflecting the biggest one-month jump in gas prices in nearly six years. But outside of energy, price pressures remained modest.

The consumer price index rose 0.4 percent in May, the biggest advance since February 2013, the Labor Department reported this week. The increase was driven by a 10.4 percent

rise in the cost of gasoline, which has started climbing after nearly a year of falling energy prices.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy,

as up a modest 0.1 percent in May as the price of clothing and household furnishings declined. Over the past 12 months, overall inflation has shown no increase, while core inflation is up just 1.7 percent, both showing modest inflation pressures.

Even with the 10.4 percent

increase in gas prices, the biggest one-month jump since June 2009, gas prices are still 25 percent below where they were a year ago.

However, prices at the pump have been rising recently.

The nationwide average is up to \$2.80, 10 cents higher than a month ago but still below the price a year ago of \$3.66, according to AAA. Food prices were unchanged in May, matching April's flat reading.

Prices for a variety of prod-

ucts did show gains in May including increases for new vehicles, alcoholic beverages and personal care such as haircuts.

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday left a key interest rate at a record low near zero, where it has been for the past six years. Fed Chair Janet Yellen said the central bank still needed more evidence that very low inflation would be moving back to the Fed's target of 2 percent over the next two to three years.

For the past three years,

inflation by a price gauge favored by the Fed, has been running well below 2 percent. The Fed strives to achieve annual price increases of 2 percent, believing that is the optimal spot for inflation.

Many economists believe the central bank will start moving interest rates higher later this year, after it feels more confident that inflation is rising and the job market, which was battered by the Great Recession, has regained its footing. □

Office Depot shareholders approve sale to Staples

NEW YORK (AP) — Office Depot shareholders voted overwhelmingly in favor of the company's \$6.3 billion acquisition by one-time rival Staples.

The deal, announced in February, is part of a rapid consolidation in the office supply sector that has been hammered by technological changes in the workplace and by competition from Amazon.com and other online retailers. Staples Inc. has closed dozens of stores in preparation and by the end of the year, it expects to have shuttered up to 225. Office Depot Inc., based in Boca Raton, Florida, has said it expects to close up to 135 stores by the end of 2015. Office Depot said Friday that 99.5 percent of the votes cast were in favor of the deal, which is expected to close by the end of the year if approved by regulators. Shareholders will receive \$7.25 in cash and 0.2188 of a share in Staples for each share at closing.

The Federal Trade Commission is reviewing the proposed deal in a landscape that has changed vastly since it shot down an attempted merger between the two office suppliers almost a decade ago.

Sales at office supply and stationary stores dropped almost 30 percent between 2007 and 2013, according to Statista Inc., a data and statistical company.

Regulators swiftly approved Office Depot's buyout of OfficeMax just a year ago. Still, a tie-up between Staples and Office Depot would whittle down the office supply sector to one major player and that could give regulators pause.

"I don't know that this is a 'fait accompli' by any stretch," said Charles O'Shea, vice president at Moody's Investors Services. The Office Depot-OfficeMax deal was approved fairly quickly, O'Shea said, but regulators at the time cited the existence of Staples as a competitive



This photo shows an Office Depot in San Francisco. Office Depot shareholders have voted overwhelmingly in favor of the company's \$6.3 billion acquisition by one-time rival Staples. Office Depot said Friday, June 19, 2015, that 99.5 percent of the votes cast were in favor of the deal.

(AP Photo/Eric Risberg)

counterbalance. With only one company left with the scale to deliver office supplies on a large

scale, the FTC could see the potential of a market being cornered.

Shares of Staples, based in

Framingham, Massachusetts, rose 8 cents to \$16.51, while shares of Office Depot rose 6 cents to \$9.22. □

Fogo de Chao shares jump almost 29% in market debut

NEW YORK (AP) — Shares of Fogo de Chao Inc. surged in their first day of trading after the Brazilian steakhouse chain priced its IPO above the expected range. The company's initial public offering on Friday sold just over 4.4 million shares of stock at \$20 apiece.

The shares jumped \$5.75, or 28.8 percent, to close at

\$25.75 in their market debut on the Nasdaq. The stock is trading under the symbol "FOGO." The company had proposed the IPO at between \$16 and \$18 per share. Underwriters for the IPO have a 30-day option to purchase up to 661,764 additional common shares. Jefferies LLC and J.P. Morgan Securities LLC are act-

ing as joint book-running managers in the offering. Dallas-based Fogo de Chao operates 26 restaurants in the U.S., 10 in Brazil and one joint venture restaurant in Mexico. It opened its first restaurant in Porto Alegre, Brazil in 1979. The restaurants are churras-carias which specialize in meats. Patrons are served

continuously by roving chefs with options of different fire-roasted meat. A table medallion is used to signal whether a patron wants the roving chefs to continue offering meat through a simple color system of red or green.

The restaurants also have section where patrons can get side dishes.

In 2014, the company earned a profit of \$17.6 million on revenue of \$262.3 million. Fogo de Chao said it plans to use proceeds from the IPO to pay debt. The company said there is long-term potential to expand to more than 100 new domestic sites and additional restaurants internationally. □

Mutts



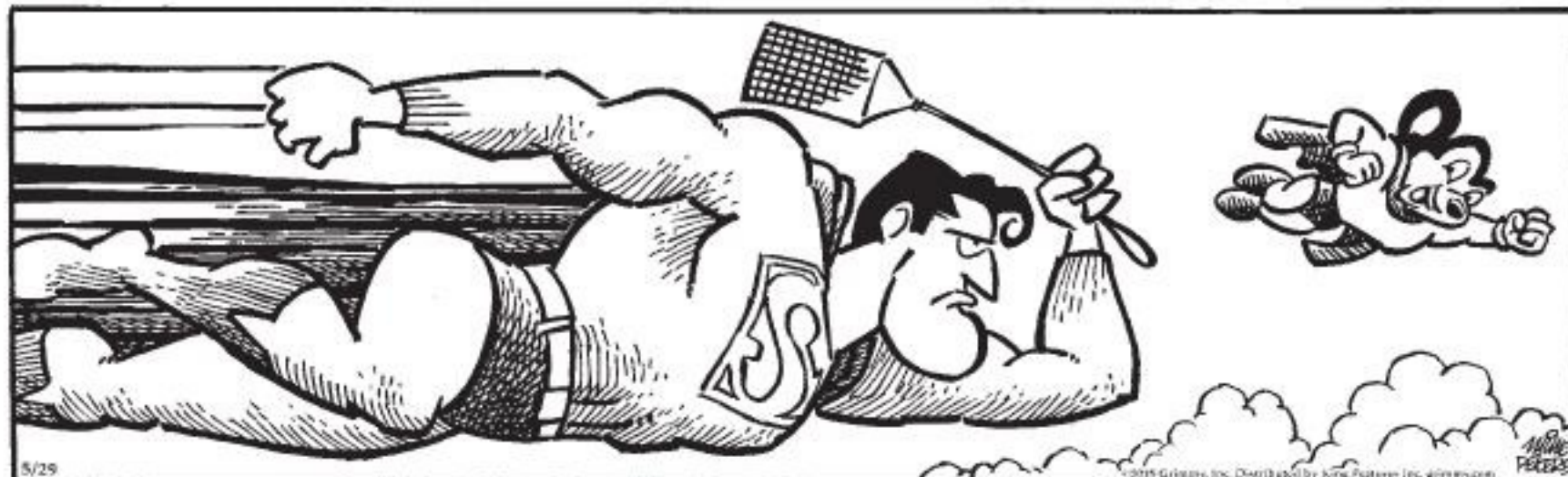
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			1	3				
		7				9		
	3	8				7	5	
2			8	7				3
				5				
6			9	1				4
	1	5				4	9	
		2				6		
			4	2				

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

5/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

1	3	4	8	5	6	9	2	7
5	8	6	2	7	9	1	3	4
2	7	9	4	3	1	6	8	5
7	6	3	5	8	4	2	1	9
9	2	8	3	1	7	4	5	6
4	5	1	6	9	2	3	7	8
6	1	2	7	4	5	8	9	3
3	9	5	1	6	8	7	4	2
8	4	7	9	2	3	5	6	1

ACROSS

- 1 ___ roll; list of star pupils
- 6 Yellowish-brown wood
- 10 Etna's output
- 14 Be a drama queen
- 15 Rat ___; daily grind
- 16 ___ up; spends
- 17 Romney and others
- 18 Suffix for Paul or Ann
- 19 Actor Douglas
- 20 Church spires
- 22 Duster's spray
- 24 Hit the ___; leave
- 25 Alga
- 26 "Alice ___ Live Here Anymore"
- 29 Approximately
- 30 Climbing plant
- 31 ___ card; cash alternative
- 33 Standing straight
- 37 Swerve
- 39 Became irate
- 41 Burrowing critter
- 42 Said no more
- 44 ___ up; fills the tank
- 46 Religious sister
- 47 Prance about
- 49 ___ around; gave orders to
- 51 National
- 54 Firm hold
- 55 Wiped away
- 56 Pragmatic folks
- 60 Curry & Jillian
- 61 Word of disgust
- 63 Nampa's state
- 64 S, M, L or XL
- 65 Penitential time
- 66 Firm refusal
- 67 Soothing drinks
- 68 Nervous
- 69 Say "Hi" to

DOWN

- 1 Skirt edges
- 2 Leave out
- 3 Short letter

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21				22	23		
24					25				26			
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54					55				56			
57					58				59			
60					61				62			
63					64				65			
66					67				68			
69					70				71			

Created by Jacqueline E. Matthews

5/29/15

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

FIGS	LLAMA	CHAD
LOUT	AILED	HORA
ITSA	DELTA	EMMY
PATROLS	AGELESS	
TIE	PLEAS	
ATOLL	PAS	GEARS
PACE	DUN	BEATUP
ABC	RATTLER	ALI
ROUSED	HAD	GLEE
TORAH	PEP	HOLDS
RADAR	JAB	
OCTOBER	RAMBLED	
DARN	CABIN	LURE
DRUG	ADOBE	EARN
SEES	FEAST	RUST

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5/29/15

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 40 Actress Winger | 52 Goller ___ Els |
| 43 "How ___ you!"; cry of outrage | 53 Actor Tony |
| 45 Making dirty | 54 J. Paul or Estelle |
| 48 Canoeist's need | 56 Pealed |
| 50 Miss Muffet's terror | 57 Rescue |
| 51 Banquet | 58 You, biblically |
| | 59 Type; variety |
| | 62 Ruby or scarlet |

Ton of ivory crushed in Times Square to highlight poaching



U.S. Fish and Wildlife stand next to a conveyor belt with confiscated illegal ivory to be crushed in an effort to halt elephant poaching and ivory trafficking, Friday, June 19, 2015 at Times Square in New York. Animal advocates say the trade in ivory threatens to wipe out African elephants.

(AP Photo/Bebeto Matthews)

KAREN MATTHEWS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Over a ton of confiscated ivory tumbled off a conveyor belt into a rock crusher in Times Square on Friday in a symbolic display highlighting an illegal trade that activists say threatens the survival of African elephants. The Wildlife Conservation Society says the global ivory trade is responsible for the slaughter of as many as 35,000 elephants a year in Africa.

"Crushing ivory in Times Square — literally at the crossroads of the world — says in the clearest of terms that the U.S. is serious about closing its illegal ivory markets and stopping the demand," said John Calvelli, the society's executive vice president for public affairs.

a powder that fed into a trough, waiting to be trucked away.

The event was organized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New York state agencies and the Wildlife Conservation Society, which runs New York City's zoos.

Actress Kristen Davis, a longtime advocate for elephants known for her role in the HBO show "Sex and the City," said at the event no one should ever buy ivory even if a dealer says it's an antique.

"We are going to lose elephants in 10 years if we don't do something, which means that our children will never know that elephants roamed the planet in the wild as they should," Davis said. The crush was one of

several ivory destruction events that have been held around the world to stigmatize the ivory trade.

The Times Square ivory will be combined with the 6 tons that was crushed in Denver in 2013 and used to create a memorial to elephants.

Officials said they are committed to fighting the ivory trade not just to protect elephants but to combat terrorists who profit from elephant poaching. □



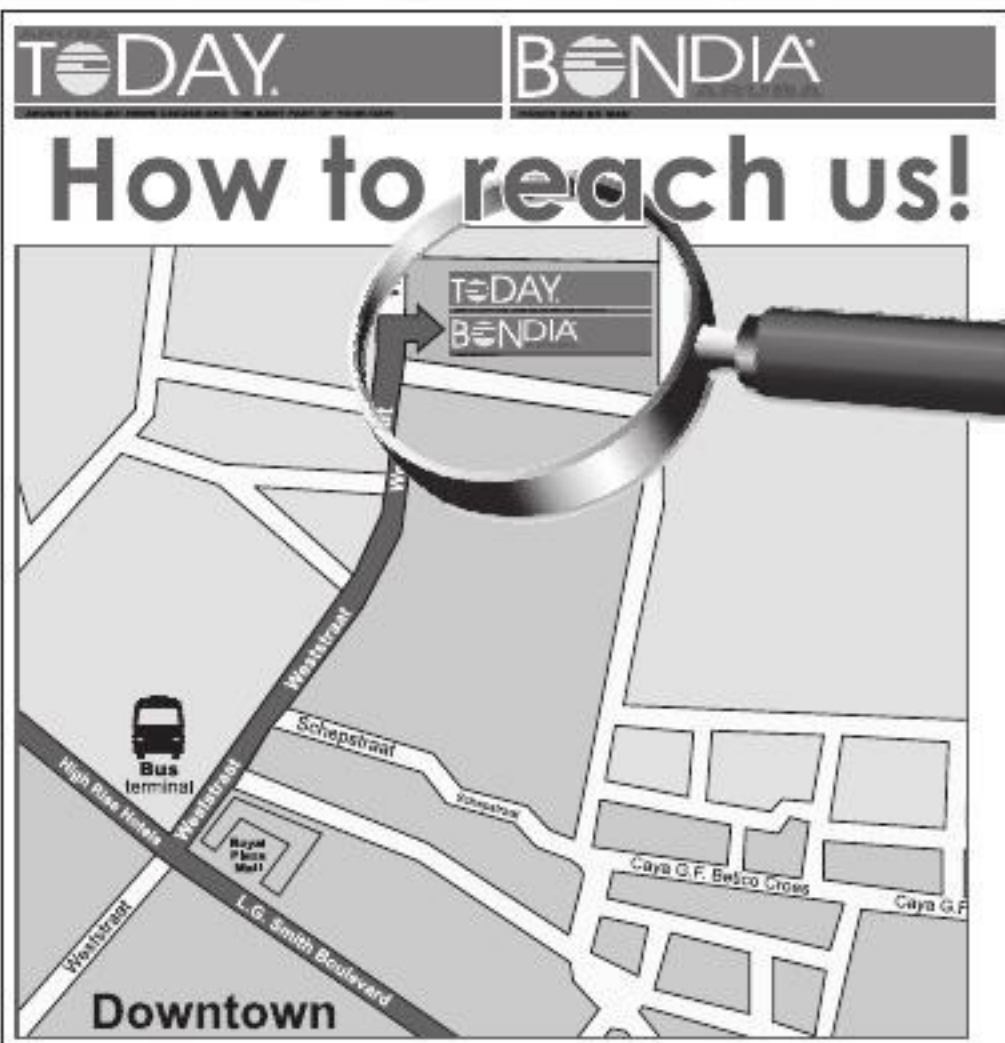
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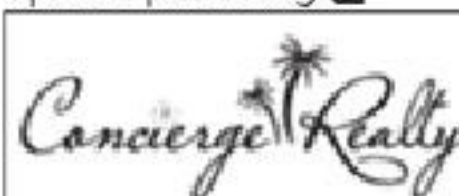
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24/7

New study identifies elephant poaching hotspots in Africa

CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Investigators who collected DNA from the tusks of slain elephants and painstakingly looked for matches in the vast African continent have identified two large areas where the slaughter has been occurring on an industrial scale, according to a study published on Thursday.

The two areas are Tanzania in the east and a cross-border region encompassing several nations in the central-western part of Africa. Samuel Wasser, an author of the study published in the journal *Science*, said he hopes the study will focus law enforcement efforts and increase international pressure on host countries to crack down on poaching, but he acknowledged the challenge.

"You're literally asking them to police themselves," Wasser said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. He suggested donor countries could demand more robust conservation efforts in exchange



In this Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2013 file photo, a Maasai boy and his dog stand near the skeleton of an elephant killed by poachers outside of Arusha, Tanzania. Associated Press

for development aid. The big size of shipments of confiscated ivory from both regions — over half a ton — indicates the presence of transnational crime syndicates likely operating with corrupt authorities, said researchers who matched DNA from seized tusks to samples of elephant hair, tissue and dung from wildlife parks across Africa. Wasser, director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington in Seattle, in the United States, described the two areas that the study identified

as "major hotspots" where elephant poaching far surpasses the scale of the killing for profit elsewhere. Elephant populations in both areas were already known to be under siege by poachers who have killed tens of thousands annually in recent years to meet rising demand for ivory in Asia, particularly China. An average of at least several dozen tons of ivory is seized each year, roughly 10 percent of the total amount of ivory that is poached annually, said authors of the new study. On Thursday, authorities in Bangkok announced that raids by multiple law enforcement agencies across Asia, Africa and Europe resulted in more than 300 arrests and over 600 seizures of assorted wildlife contraband, including more than 12 tons of ivory, as well as rhino horns, whale ribs and sea horses.

In New York City on Friday,

a ton of confiscated ivory will be crushed in Times Square to draw attention to wildlife trafficking.

The dire poaching situation in Tanzania was already illustrated by a recent census, part of a continent-wide effort to count elephants. The result, announced this month, revealed a 60 percent decline to an estimated 43,330 elephants in Tanzania since a 2009 census, according to the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Tanzania's minister for natural resources and tourism, Lazaro Nyalandu, has said the country has taken anti-poaching steps, including the hiring of 500 additional rangers, the establishment of an elephant orphanage and an appeal for more help from international conservation groups. Interpol assisted in the University of Washington study, which analyzed 28 large ivory seizures in Africa and Asia between 1996 and 2014. Researchers built a DNA database from 1,350 elephants in about 30 African countries and linked results with DNA from seized tusks.

Between 2006 and 2014, more than 85 percent of seized ivory from savanna elephants came from southeast Tanzania and adjacent areas of northern Mozambique, as well as further north in Tanzania's Ruaha and Rungwa wildlife parks as poachers

moved on from depleted killing grounds, the study said. Some DNA samples came from areas north of Ruaha, indicating the hotspot could be shifting toward southern Kenya, it said.

The other poaching hotspot in the past decade is the "last stronghold of forest elephants," a conservation area called Tridom that spans Gabon, Cameroon and the Republic of Congo, Wasser said. Poachers have also hit hard in an adjacent area in Central African Republic. Each hotspot covers about 58,000 square miles (150,000 square kilometers), each roughly equal to the size of the U.S. state of Illinois. The study found that most ivory was shipped, or about to be shipped, from a country other than the origin nation, possibly to mask smuggling routes.

The consumer end of the ivory trade in Asia is also elaborate, said William Clark, a study co-author and environmental crimes expert at Interpol.

Much of the ivory is carved into jewelry, cigarette holders and seals used to stamp signatures; an item weighing about 30 grams (0.07 pounds) can sell for about \$200, he said. A pair of tusks can weigh about 10 kilograms (22 pounds), meaning several hundred ornate items can be extracted from a single elephant's ivory. □



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More magazine talks to Michelle Obama and Meryl Streep

LUQMAN ADENIYI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — First lady Michelle Obama shares a chill-out playlist, a few family photos and a chat with actress Meryl Streep as guest editor of the July-August issue of More magazine.

"There was a lot of laughter in the room," said Susan Pocharski, entertainment director of the women's magazine, who moderated their recent conversation. "They were both incredibly down to earth, real, thoughtful (and) they care about the same issues that every other woman thinks about, which is how to balance work and family and how to make an impact in the world."

Streep and Obama have forged a strong path for themselves and their children. Streep, a three-time Academy Award winner, has a record 19 Oscar nominations. Her films include "Mamma Mia" and "Sophie's Choice." Obama, a Harvard-trained lawyer, has tackled issues such as nutrition and support for military families.

Both said they hope to have as much

effect on their children's lives as their mothers had on them.

"My mentor was my mother," Streep said during their conversation. "She was a mentor because she said to me, 'Meryl, you're capable. You're so great.' She was saying, 'You can do whatever you put your mind to. If you're lazy, you're not going to get it done. But if you put your mind to it, you can do anything.' And I believed her. And she said it from the time I was little. And that made me arrogant."

They also discussed education, how to make change and what they hope their legacy will be.

"If I point to anything that makes me who I am, it's that I have a whole lot of common sense," Obama said. "I've got a good mind and a good ability to read people and situations. A lot of that is because that's who my mother is." On newsstands June 23, the issue also includes Obama's review of "The Light of the World," a memoir written by friend and poet Elizabeth Alexander. It will be Obama's third More cover. □



In this magazine cover image released by Meredith Corporation, first lady Michelle Obama graces the cover of the July/August issue of "More."

Associated Press

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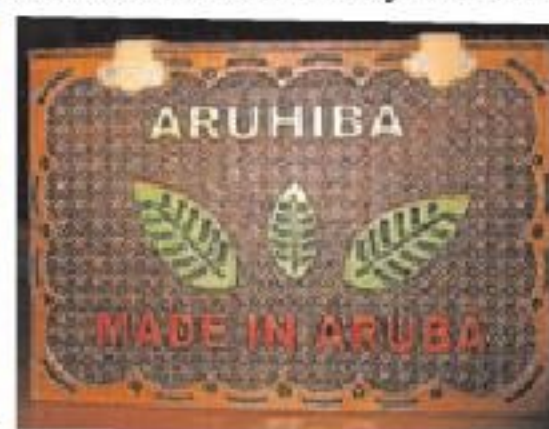
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'Empire' star Taraji P. Henson treated for exhaustion



In this Saturday, June 13, 2015 file photo, actress Taraji P. Henson poses during the opening ceremony of the 2015 Monte Carlo Television Festival in Monaco.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A spokeswoman for Taraji P. Henson says the actress is suffering from exhaustion. Henson, the star of the Fox drama

"Empire," on Friday posted a photo close-up of an IV connected to her arm. In a tweet, she offered reassurances that she will be

fine. Spokeswoman Pamela Sharp in Los Angeles said Henson had become exhausted, was resting and will be OK. □

Associated Press

Keith: Stricter gun laws wouldn't really make a difference

JOHN CARUCCI Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Toby Keith says he's not sure how to prevent tragedies like Wednesday's church shooting in Charleston, South Carolina, but doesn't think stricter gun laws would make a difference.

"If it can happen in church, it can happen anywhere, so there's no answer to it," Keith said.

"Countries all over the world that have really strict gun policies, like Oslo, Norway. It happens there."

Keith feels it's hard to predict where violence will show up, but felt if a police officer had been praying at The Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church on Wednesday, "maybe seven or eight of



In this image released by Starpix, country singer Toby Keith arrives at the Songwriters Hall of Fame 2015 46th Annual Induction and Awards Gala, Thursday, June 18, 2015, in New York.

Associated Press

those nine people would still be alive."

He made the comments Thursday on the red carpet at the Songwriters Hall of Fame gala where he was being inducted. □

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World shocked at enduring racism, gun violence in US

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Often the target of U.S. human rights accusations, China wasted little time returning such charges following the shooting at a historic black church in South Carolina that left nine people dead. Elsewhere around the world, the attack renewed perceptions that Americans have too many guns and have yet to overcome racial tensions.

Some said the attack reinforced their reservations about personal security in the U.S. — particularly as a non-white foreigner — while others said they'd still feel safe if they were to visit. Especially in Australia and northeast Asia, where firearms are strictly controlled and gun violence almost unheard of, many were baffled by the determination among many Americans to own guns despite repeated mass shootings, such as the 2012 tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where a gunman killed 20 children and six adults.

"We don't understand America's need for guns," said Philip Alpers, director of the University of Sydney's GunPolicy.org project that compares gun laws across the world. "It is very puzzling for non-Americans."

A frontier nation like the U.S., Australia had a similar attitude toward firearms prior to a 1996 mass shooting that killed 35. Soon after, tight restrictions on gun ownership were imposed and no such incidents have been reported since.

A similar effect has been seen elsewhere.

"The USA is completely out of step with the rest of the world. We've tightened our gun laws and have seen a reduction," said Claire Taylor, the director of media and public relations at Gun Free South Africa.

Ahmad Syafi'i Maarif, a prominent Indonesian intellectual and former leader of Muhammadiyah, one of the country's largest Muslim organizations, said the church shooting shocked

many.

"People all over the world believed that racism had gone from the U.S. when Barack Obama was elected to lead the superpower, twice," he said. "But the Charleston shooting has re-



President Barack Obama arrives in the Brady Press Briefing Room of the White House in Washington, Thursday, June 18, 2015, to speak about the church shooting in Charleston, S.C. Around the world, the South Carolina church attack renewed perceptions that Americans have too many guns and have yet to overcome racial tensions.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

minded us that in fact, the seeds of racism still remain and were embedded in the hearts of small communities there, and can explode at any time, like a terrorist act by an individual."

A 21-year-old white man, Dylann Storm Roof, now faces nine counts of murder for the South Carolina shooting. An acquaintance said Roof had complained that "blacks were taking over the world."

Many places around the world struggle with racism and prejudice against outsiders, but mass shootings in the U.S.,

where the Constitution's second amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms, often receive widespread global attention.

"Guns are in their constitution," said Joanna Leung, a 34-year-old Toronto resident.

"I'm pretty sure no one else has anything similar. I never understand why they think gun violence is going to solve anything."

In Britain, the attack reinforced the view that America has too many guns and too many racists. The front-page headline of The Independent newspaper said simply, "America's shame." The newspaper said in

ment really reflects on his country's deep-rooted issues like racial discrimination and social inequality and takes concrete actions on gun control, such tragedy will hardly be prevented from happening again," Xinhua said in an editorial.

On China's Twitter-like Weibo microblogging service, some users compared the United States to lawless Somalia and said racial discrimination was fueling violence and high crime rates. Many reflected the official view that gun ownership and violent crime are by-products of Western-style democratic freedoms that are not only unsuited to China but potentially disastrous.

Recalling the recent killings of Chinese and other foreign students in the U.S., office worker Xie Yan said he was still eager to visit the U.S., but would be "extremely careful" there.

Xie said he had heard much about racism in the U.S., but was uncertain about the underlying dynamics.

"We tend to see the U.S. as a violent place, but I don't think we understand a lot about racism there. Chinese are free to study, visit and live there so it doesn't feel like we're discriminated against," Xu said while waiting for a train on Beijing's busy subway line 1.

Like Australia, China has had its problems with racial and ethnic discrimination. China is overwhelmingly dominated by one ethnic group, the Han, and activists decry the lack of awareness about discrimination in jobs and housing faced by minorities such as Tibetans and Turkic Muslim Uighurs from the northwest. Chinese police have been accused of heavy-handed tactics against those labeled separatists or terrorists, although such measures appear to be supported by most Chinese.

In Japan, discrimination tends to be based less on skin color than on national origin, resulting in biases against Chinese and Koreans, said Hiroko Takimoto, 41, a patent attorney in To-

kyo.

Racially motivated killings are "simply something Japanese as a people cannot understand," she said.

Yukari Kato, vice president of the company Ryugaku Journal that assists Japanese students on overseas programs, including about 2,000 in the U.S., said violence there was nothing new and most of the country remained perfectly safe. "It's no different from Japan. There are places where you can become a victim of crime.

You just have to be prepared to defend yourself," she said.

However, Yuka Christine Koshino, 21, a political science student at Tokyo's Keio University, said she was devastated by the shootings, particularly after having participated in racism awareness campaigns while studying at the University of California, Berkeley. Those interactions had given her hope that the situation was improving. The shootings "shocked me," said Koshino.

Chairman of the Philippine Alliance of Human Rights Advocates Max de Mesa shared the sentiment of civil rights activists in South Carolina who pointed out that the Confederate battle flag, the symbol of the pro-slavery South during the Civil War, continued to fly over the state even as it mourned.

"Some of the (old) structures and some of the attitudes remain and they were even nurtured, at least that is being shown now," de Mesa said.

"That would be no different from a suicide bomber," he said. "For a jihadist, 'I will be with Allah if I do that.' The other says,

'I am proving white supremacy here.'"

Indonesian intellectual Syafi'i Maarif said he hoped the incident would help Americans stop equating terrorism with Islam.

"Terrorism and radicalism can appear in every strata of society under various guises and in the name of ethnicity, religion and race," he said. □



Pope Francis delivers a message in St. Peter's Square, at the Vatican. Pope Francis' plea to make the state of the environment a central moral issue of our age has been greeted with applause from many, but dismissive shrugs from others. (AP Photo/Gregorio Borgia)

Pope tells world to clean up

NICOLE WINFIELD
RACHEL ZOLL
SETH BORENSTEIN
Associated Press
VATICAN CITY (AP)

— Pope Francis' plea to make the state of the environment a central moral issue of our age has been greeted with applause from climate activists and a wide range of church, science and government leaders, but dismissive shrugs from those who

doubt climate change. In "Laudato Si," Francis addressed "every living person on this planet," urging them to hear "both the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor" about the damage from "compulsive consumerism," waste and a single-minded pursuit of profit.

The pope's "marching orders for advocacy," as the head of the U.S. conference of bishops calls it,

comes as the world nears a critical time for international climate change negotiations that start late this year in Paris.

Francis said he hoped his paper would lead both ordinary people in their daily lives and decision-makers at the Paris U.N. climate meetings to a wholesale change of mind and heart. The document, released Thursday, put care for the environment at the center of Catholic social teaching, and, in lyrical but stark terms, reframed the discussion about global warming from the dry language of science to a broad question of ethics.

"Never have we so hurt and mistreated our common home as we have in the last two hundred years," Francis writes. "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth." Many praised the encyclical: "It has the power to reshape the church and realign politics," said Austen Ivereigh, author of "The Great Reformer: Francis and the Making of a Radical Pope."

But some politically conservative Catholics criticized its economic analysis, and some U.S. Republican politicians said religion had no place in climate policy.

"No, I'm sorry, it's a political issue," said Rep. Rob Bishop of Utah, chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources. "Most people have their minds made up on this issue, so any more rhetoric about the issue doesn't really add a heck of a lot more to it."

Scientists who for more than 50 years have been talking about the dangers of global warming say the encyclical could break the inertia that has characterized climate negotiations. With their data and computer models, scientists appealed to logic; the pope sought to engage the soul.

"This is exactly what we need," said Texas Tech climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe, an evangelical Christian who has talked about faith and warming. □



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